

IN THE CLAIMS

1-8 (Canceled) .

9. (New) A power generation plants remote control and operation system connected to a plurality of thermal power generation plants via communication lines to permit mutual communication and remote control of the plurality of thermal power generation plants comprising:

a centralized monitoring device which performs centralized monitoring of operation states of the plurality of thermal power generation plants; and

a plurality of start and stop control devices for remotely controlling start and stop operations of the plurality of thermal power generation plants, wherein a number of the start and stop control devices corresponds to the number of the plurality of thermal power generation plants, and

wherein each of the plurality of start and stop control devices is provided with a control program setting a start and stop control and operation sequence for each

corresponding one of the plurality of thermal power generation plants.

10. (New) A power generation plant remote control and operation system of claim 9, wherein the communication lines are constituted by a network line including an internet.

11. (New) A power generation plant remote control and operation system of claim 9, wherein the communication lines are constituted by a network line including a satellite communication line.

12. (New) A power generation plant remote control and operation system of claim 9, wherein the centralized monitoring device monitors states of respective control objects and/or operating states of the thermal power generation plants.

13. (New) A power generation plant remote control and operation system of claim 9, wherein a consideration payment made to the centralized monitoring service of the thermal

power generation plant is set based on an operating state controlled by the power generation plant remote control and operation systems.

14. (New) A power generation plant remote control and operation system of claim 13, wherein a reference operating state of the consideration payment is set based on at least one of a number of auxiliary machines in the plant, complexity of control object line system, magnitude of output of the plant, and amount of signals of the plant.

15. (New) A power generation plant remote control and operation system of claim 9, wherein a consideration payment to be paid to the centralized monitoring service of the thermal power generation plant is set based on the amount of cost savings by attributed to the power generation plant remote control and operating systems.

16. (New) A power generation plant remote control and operation system, comprising:

a plurality of thermal power generation plants each of which is provided with a communication terminal and a function of controlling respective elements based on an operation signal inputted via the communication terminal; and

a remote control center which is connected to the communication terminal via a communication line, that accesses the elements representing control objects in the respective thermal power generation plants and remotely controls operating states including starting and stopping of the corresponding thermal power generation plants,

wherein, the remote control center includes a plurality of start and stop control devices for remote controlling of start and stop operations of the plurality of thermal power generation plants, a number of which corresponds to the number of the plurality of start and stop control devices, and said start and stop control devices are provided with a control program setting a start and stop control and operation sequence for the corresponding thermal power generation plants.